

**House File 878 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 878

BY GAINES

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring school districts and accredited nonpublic  
2 schools to offer and teach in grades nine through twelve  
3 one unit of the history of refugee migration in and to the  
4 United States.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code  
2 2021, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction  
4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration  
5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in  
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting  
7 an absentee ballot. One unit of the history of refugee  
8 migration within and immigration to the United States shall  
9 also be included. All students shall complete a minimum of  
10 one-half unit of United States government and one unit of  
11 United States history. The one-half unit of United States  
12 government shall include the voting procedure as described in  
13 this lettered paragraph and [section 280.9A](#). The government  
14 instruction shall also include a study of the Constitution  
15 of the United States and the Bill of Rights contained in the  
16 Constitution and an assessment of a student's knowledge of the  
17 Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

18 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
19 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
20 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
21 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
22 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
23 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
24 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
25 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
26 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
27 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
28 districts.

29

#### EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill requires, within the five units of social studies  
33 required under Iowa's educational standards, school districts  
34 and accredited nonpublic schools to offer and teach one unit  
35 of instruction in the history of refugee migration within

1 and immigration to the United States in grades 9 through 12.  
2 Currently, high school students are required to take three  
3 years of social studies, including one-half unit of United  
4 States government and a unit of United States history.

5 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
6 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
7 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
8 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
9 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
10 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
11 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
12 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
13 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
14 mandates included in the bill.